REMARKS

Claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Yoshida. The claims as amended are patentable over Yoshida. Claims 1, 6 and 11 have been amended to specify that the processed image data is placed in "specific bit positions <u>of multiple bits</u> of pixel data." Applicants claim apparatuses, methods and recording mediums for placing and obtaining "bits for describing information different from information of said first processed image data in specific bit positions<u> of multiple bits</u> of pixel data <u>at predetermined positions of said processed image</u>, each of the pixel data being expressed by using multiple bits." Accordingly, Applicants claim predetermining positions within a processed image and then placing information within only specific bit positions within only these predetermined positions.

For example, on page 12 of the specification, Applicants disclose dividing an image into 64 units and then using the central pixel of these units to embed information. The central pixel of these units would be an example of multiple bits of pixel data at predetermined positions of said processed image. Within these central pixels, information is placed in specific bit positions. For example, on page 12 of the specification, these specific bit positions are the least significant bit positions of intensity data of each of these central pixels.

In the advisory action the Examiner states that Fig. 25, step 1312 of Yoshida corresponds to specific bit positions. Step 1312 of Yoshida discusses a process for confirming whether characteristic points have the predetermined positions in relation to <u>the whole image</u>. Applicants claim predetermining positions within the image and then placing information at specific bit positions **only within the predetermined positions**, not within the whole image. Since Yoshida does not disclose placing information at specific positions within predetermined positions of the processed image as claimed, amended claims 1, 6 and 11 should be allowed. Claims 2-5, 7-10

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and 12-15, which depend from claims 1, 6 and 11, should be allowed for at least the same reasons.
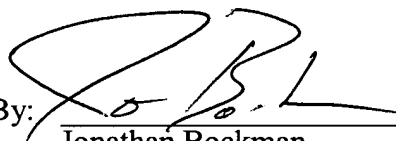
Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made".

In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 325772009100.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Amend claims 1, 6 and 11 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) An image processing apparatus, comprising:

a processor, wherein the processor places bits for describing information different from information of image data obtained by image processing on original image data in specific bit positions of multiple bits of pixel data at predetermined positions of said processed image, each of the pixel data being expressed by using multiple bits, at predetermined positions of said processed image.

6. (Twice Amended) An image processing method comprising:

obtaining first processed image data by performing image processing on original image data; and

placing bits for describing information different from information of said first processed image data in specific bit positions of multiple bits of pixel data at predetermined positions of said processed image, each of the pixel data being expressed by using multiple bits, at predetermined positions of said processed image.

11. (Twice Amended) A recording medium in which a program for a computer is stored, wherein said program is one that enables the computer to perform the following processing:

placing bits for describing information different from information of image data, said processed image data being obtained by image processing on original image data in specific bit positions of multiple bits of pixel data at predetermined positions of said processed image, each

of the pixel data being expressed by using multiple bits, ~~at predetermined positions of said~~

~~processed imag~~e.

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